

Senate Bill 394

By: Senators Johnson of the 1st, Stephens of the 51st, Williams of the 19th and Balfour of the 9th

AS PASSED SENATE

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to authorize the reading or posting of certain
3 writings, documents, and records without content based censorship thereof; to provide for
4 notice to local school superintendents; to provide for other related matters; to repeal
5 conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

6 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:**

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
9 secondary education, is amended by adding at the end thereof a new Article 32 to read as
10 follows:

11 "ARTICLE 32

12 20-2-2080.

13 This article shall be known and may be cited as the 'American Heritage in Education Act.'

14 20-2-2081.

15 (a) Local school boards may allow and encourage any teacher or administrator in a public
16 school district of this state to read or post in a public school building or classroom or at an
17 event sponsored by a public school or public school district excerpts, portions, or replicas
18 of the following affirmations or documents of American heritage:

19 (1) The United States Constitution, including the preamble;

20 (2) The Constitution of Georgia, including the preamble;

21 (3) The Declaration of Independence;

22 (4) The Mayflower Compact;

- 1 (5) The national motto, 'In God We Trust';
2 (6) The national anthem;
3 (7) The Pledge of Allegiance;
4 (8) The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of any of the signers of the
5 Declaration of Independence, signers of the Constitution of the United States, or
6 Presidents of the United States;
7 (9) Organic documents from the precolonial, colonial, revolutionary, federalist, and
8 postfederalist eras;
9 (10) United States Supreme Court decisions; and
10 (11) Acts of the United States Congress, including the published text of the United States
11 Congressional Record.

12 (b) There shall be no content based censorship of American history or heritage in this state
13 based on religious or other references in these writings, documents, affirmations, or
14 records.

15 20-2-2082.

16 Not later than August 1, 2004, a copy of this article shall be distributed to all school
17 districts in the state by the State School Superintendent, whereupon local superintendents
18 shall then distribute it to all schools within the local school district."

19 **SECTION 2.**

20 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.